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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

188

COUNTRY Levant States/Iraq

DATE:

INFO. As stated in text

SUBJECT Petitions of Kurds and Syrian
Catholics to Minister Solod

DIST. 28 January 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. Two Kurds from the Sulaimaniya district of Iraq, Mustafa Muala Ramazwi and Ahmad Kandali, arrived in Beirut on 29 November, after being guests of Kurdish Deputy Hasan Agha Hajjo in Qubur al-Bid and in Damascus.
2. The two Iraqi Kurds were also guests in Damascus of Jaladat Ali Badr Khan, brother of Dr. Kamiran Badr Khan of Beirut.

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Comment: [redacted] distributed on 15 August 1946, stated that Jaladat Ali Badr Khan, exile from Turkey, is a Kurdish nationalist in touch with Kurdish propagandists for a separatist movement in Turkey.

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3. The Kurds came to Beirut with Mirza Ahmad Khan, an Iranian Kurd who is a relative of Qadri Bey Jamil Pasha, originally from Diyarbakir in Turkey, now living in Damascus. The Kurds visited Soviet Minister Daniel Solod on 30 November, and had an interview of an hour with him.
4. Hasan Hajjo is said to have told Mikail Dudum, Mayor of Qamishlie, that the Kurds presented Solod with a petition to be sent to the UN Security Council, requesting the formation of an independent Kurdish state composed of Kurds of Iraq, Iran, and the Jazirah, under UN supervision.
5. Cardinal Ignatius Gabriel Tappuni, head of the Eastern Desk of the Vatican Secretariat of State, invited Minister Solod to tea on 6 December: the invitation was delivered by Archbishop Iffam Hikari, Syrian Catholic Bishop of Beirut.
6. Present at this tea were Mikail Dudum, Father Yusuf Tafanji, Ilyas 'Abd-al-Ahad, George Jaburi of the Syrian community in the Jazirah, and another unidentified man.
7. Solod stated that he had received petitions and letters from Syrian Catholics in the Jazirah, requesting the sympathy and help of the Soviets. These petitions emphasized that the Syrian Catholics wished to be united with the Kurds and live under the protection of the Soviets. Solod said that he had notified his government of these wishes. He said that the formation of a Kurdish state was a problem which was scheduled for early discussion, and also that the travel of Kurds and Syrians to Russia was under consideration.

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EXEC.	FBL	FBX	SPDT	CFCS
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8. The Syriacs stated that, after the departure of French forces from the Jazirah, they could not get help from anyone, and Solod replied to this that he would do his best to help them. This is said to have been the first visit of Solod to Cardinal Tappuni.

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 Comment: The Kurds and the Syriac Catholics have already petitioned both the British and the American Ministers; hence, it is not surprising that they should turn to the Soviets. There is the closest collaboration between the Syrian Christians and the Kurds. Many Syriac Catholics are members of Kurdish tribes, and it is natural that they wish to continue with this association.

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